

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)
and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 31, 2003
For Month Ending: March 30, 2003
ND-CW1303

General: Below normal temperatures were recorded early in the month, warming to the upper 50s to low 70s by the end of the month, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Heavy, wet snow blanketed the northeast region of the state on March 26 and 27 resulting in muddy feedlots and calving areas when the snow melted. Calving, lambing and getting machinery ready for spring were the major activities reported by producers.

On average statewide, there were 0.40 of an inch of snow cover on March 30, down from 0.70 of an inch on March 31, 2002. The northeast district reported the most snow cover with an average of 2.00 inches followed by 0.30 of an inch in the north central district. No other districts in the state reported measurable snow cover. County and secondary roads were rated 98 percent open and 2 percent difficult. Road conditions were rated 85 percent dry, 1 drifted, 1 icy and 13 muddy.

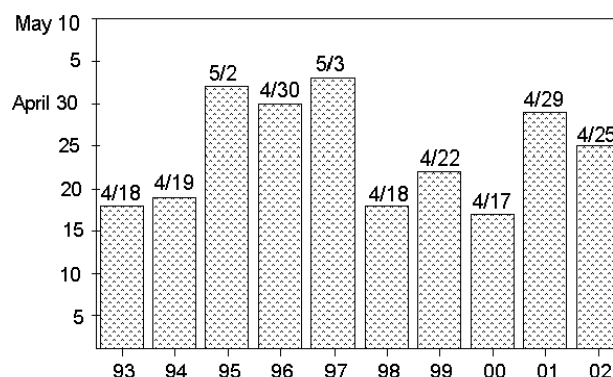
Crops: Producers are preparing machinery, lining up seed and fertilizer inputs for spring. Some fieldwork has occurred in the east central and southeast regions of the state, while most producers are waiting for soil temperatures to increase.

Livestock: Calving and lambing progressed during March with some difficulties occurring due to wet and cold conditions, especially in the northeast.

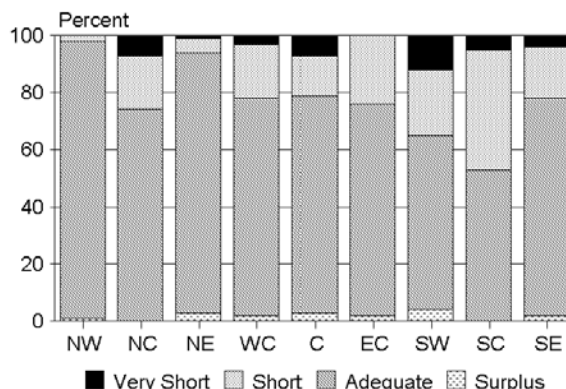
Calving was 39 percent complete and lambing was 55 percent complete compared with 46 and 64 percent last year, respectively. Shearing was 73 percent complete. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 26 fair, 63 good and 6 excellent. Calf conditions were 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 19 fair, 67 good and 11 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 25 fair, 62 good and 8 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 4 poor, 20 fair, 67 good and 7 excellent.

Current supplies of hay and forage were rated 5 percent very short, 21 short, 72 adequate and 2 surplus. This compares to a rating last year of 0 percent very short, 3 short, 87 adequate and 10 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 1 percent very short, 8 short, 88 adequate and 3 surplus. Three percent of pastures were growing, but 97 percent were still dormant.

Average Starting Date For Fieldwork
North Dakota, 1993-2002



Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 30, 2003



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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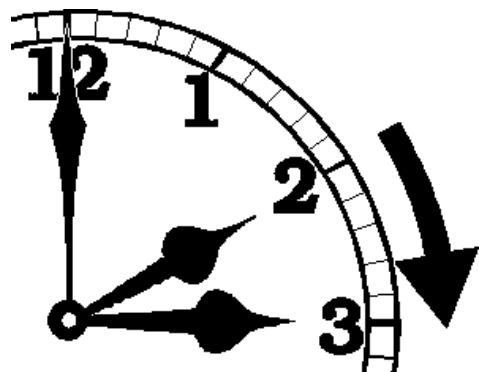
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NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Month Ending March 30, 2003

Page Two

WEATHER: Several systems brought cold weather to the state during the month of March. As the jet stream crept its way northward, North Dakota stayed on the north side of the jet stream, keeping the state from warming much. While much of the state saw high temperatures ranging from the upper 50s to lower 70s, temperatures overall were below normal. The central and western portions of the state experienced the furthest departure from normal, while the east was a little closer to normal. As for precipitation, western North Dakota received anywhere from 1.00 to 3.00 inches of precipitation above normal. Eastern and central North Dakota saw precipitation averaging 0.10 of an inch to 3.25 inches below normal.

OUTLOOK, April: With El Nino still a lingering effect, expect to see a slight increase in temperatures. The state, overall, should see temperatures hovering near to slightly above normal for the month of April. West and portions of central North Dakota should be near normal in terms of temperature, while the east should see above normal temperatures. Expect precipitation to remain the same or increase slightly.



TEMPERATURE, March 1-31, 2003

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm
(Degrees F)				
NORTHWEST	59	-25	17	-9
Columbus	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	61	-23	19	-9
Mohall	59	-30	14	-11
Minot	58	-23	17	-8
NORTH CENTRAL	59	-30	14	-9
Baker	57	-25	16	-6
Bottineau	58	-34	12	-10
Towner	62	-32	15	-10
NORTHEAST	61	-26	17	-6
Cando	58	-31	14	-11
Cavalier	62	-30	16	-8
Forest River	62	-22	20	-4
Grand Forks	62	-23	20	-4
Langdon	56	-28	14	-8
St. Thomas	63	-21	21	-3
WEST CENTRAL	61	-25	18	-10
Hazen	64	-26	19	-8
Turtle Lake	60	-26	17	-10
Watford City	60	-22	19	-12
CENTRAL	60	-26	17	-8
Carrington	59	-23	18	-6
Harvey	59	-30	15	-7
Jamestown	67	-25	21	-6
Robinson	61	-27	17	-9
Streeter	56	-24	16	-11
EAST CENTRAL	68	-22	23	-3
Dazey	65	-25	20	-6
Fargo	72	-19	26	0
Hillsboro	68	-23	23	-3
SOUTHWEST	68	-17	25	-4
Beach	67	-19	24	-6
Bowman	68	-15	26	-3
Dickinson	68	-21	24	-5
Hettinger	68	-14	27	-3
SOUTH CENTRAL	64	-19	22	-6
Bismarck	64	-19	23	-5
Linton	64	-20	22	-7
SOUTHEAST	72	-19	27	0
Edgeley	71	-18	27	0
McLeod	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oakes	71	-19	26	0
Wyndmere	73	-19	27	-1

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.